



In the West Nordic Union

By L. MUDERSPACH

OUTSIDE of the United States there is hardly a field in the world where the message has been longer preached than in the West Nordic Union. Last year we had our sixty-year jubilee, for it was that long ago that Brother Matteson began his work in Denmark. In Norway we have celebrated the fifty-year jubilee of our organization, for it was fifty years ago that the first camp-meeting was held in Europe, at Moss in Norway. Sister White and not a few of our leading brethren were present on that occasion.

It follows from this that our field, which according to population is one of the smallest Unions, has been so often worked over that the difficulty of finding fresh and fertile soil for our soul-winning efforts increases year by year. How much easier our task would appear if we only had—like our brethren in Great Britain, for instance—thousands of unworked towns, offering us virgin territory, instead of having to plough over, time and again, the same well-worked towns and districts.

We must acknowledge, however, that the rural districts have not been so thoroughly worked, and although there are great difficulties in getting opportunities for meetings, as well as other handicaps to be overcome in such areas, it becomes evident that we must turn our eyes more than we have yet done to the villages and work out plans by which we can, more effectively than hitherto, reach the

rural population. And though there are difficulties in such work, yet we must, by the help of the Almighty, accomplish much greater results than those which the last year has brought us. His Spirit must show us, ministers and lay members, ways and means by which we can go forward with new power and energy.

Our membership now totals 6,879, and our goal for the coming year is, at the very least, to bring the figure to 7,000. We have had the joy to see some new churches built in the last year, viz., at Randers, Nyborg, Vejle, and Trondheim. This means that thirty-eight churches now have their own home, and we have a good headquarters in every conference. There still remain 100 churches without a building of their own.

The number of conference workers has been the same for several years: twenty-four ordained ministers, thirteen licentiates, twelve Bible-workers, and five other workers; in all fifty-four. Our greatest sorrow is that there issue so many promising young men and women from our schools whom we have not the means to employ. This is one of our unsolved problems.

Although we have not so many conference workers, we can rejoice over our goodly army of book evangelists. Our reports

show seventy-two for the entire Union, but there are in reality many more out in the field to-day, and yet more in the summer-time when there goes out from our schools a small army of young men and women to gather for themselves, if possible, a scholarship for the next school year.

Literature sales in our three countries total for last year Kr.452,830, more than Kr.5,800 in excess of the previous year. Norway has had a great increase, while the other countries have gone back. Our difficulties in Denmark over the sale of papers are still great, but we have confidence that God will help us and not suffer our literature work to be brought to a stop.

Our school work goes well. The Danish school now stands on a firm foundation, and the Norwegian school is in much better condition now that the new scholars' home is in use. Several improvements are being worked out at both institutions. We have the same number of church schools as before. At Newbold College there are thirteen students from our Union.

For many years we have rejoiced over the "right arm of the message" which has accomplished so many good results for us here in the north, and we still give thanks for the great sanitarium in Denmark, as well as for our health institutions and many private treatment-rooms that have been established. But it must be ack-

noknowledged that now and then we are troubled a little over dark clouds which in recent years have arisen in the shape of new laws that seem likely to create difficulties for these institutions.

Tithes are on the increase throughout the conferences. We had in 1937 a tithe income of Kr.16,000 more than the foregoing year. The regular mission gifts have risen more than Kr.5,000, and what specially encourages us is the result of the Harvest Ingathering. In spite of the difficult situation in Denmark, we were able to pass our goal of Kr.100,000 and reach Kr.101,000. Especially have we been helped in Norway, where the two conferences have gathered about Kr.8,000 more than in the previous year. We must, however, rejoice over the Danish conferences which, with greatly limited opportunity, were able to

collect from well-wishers Kr.48,500.

In the course of the year considerable work has been done, both by pen and voice, to forward the cause of religious liberty. A tract on the subject has been printed in Denmark and is on the press in Norway. In the last-mentioned country representations have been made to the Government concerning the position of our young men in military service. We have received a satisfactory answer.

We thank God sincerely that He has guarded our Union through the experiences of the past year, and look to the future unafraid, trusting in the great and precious promises, and convinced that God will carry forward His work with power in Denmark, Norway, and Iceland, as well as in the fields we support with our mission gifts.

Departmental Activities in the West Nordic Union

BY E. BJAANAS

ALTHOUGH I have only been connected with the Union departmental work for a third of 1937, I will venture to make a short report. Permit me to begin at "the heart."

SABBATH-SCHOOL

I will not give many figures, but let me call attention to a few. The Sabbath-school brought in Kr.88,879 as against Kr.81,233 in 1936. Nearly Kr.89,000 is a considerable sum. And it comes almost of itself. A living illustration of how many little brooks make a big river. If we had our Sabbath-school collection lying here in the form of five-kroner notes, laid against each other, we could walk on them for a good twenty minutes.

In my opinion there are yet greater possibilities, bigger results, and richer spiritual blessings before us in the Sabbath-school work. The first and perhaps the most important thing we must work for in the near future is to get all the brethren and sisters with us in the Sabbath-school. To this we must devote our best powers. In the Union there are

6,879 members. Add together our entire Sabbath-school membership, in the schools and in the Home Division, and we get a total of 5,351, or an absent membership of 1,528, which is twenty-two per cent. Let us take hold to make these 1,528 into active Sabbath-school members. We have already sent out an eight-page leaflet on the subject to our entire church membership. South Norway has set on foot a systematic campaign, and we at headquarters are expecting special monthly reports of progress while the campaign lasts. Personally I have good hope that it will accomplish the end in view.

The East Danish Conference

BY T. TOBIASSEN

OUR conference has in certain respects had a satisfactory year in 1937, but in other matters has no cause for rejoicing. Among these last is the fact that we have not won so many souls. We end the year with twenty-two less than we began with. Our membership is now 1,679.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

We have an army of M.V. members 1,800 strong; 800 in Denmark, 800 in Norway, 200 in Iceland and the Faroes. Many of them are well educated. In Oslo, for example, we have some forty students in the University and the higher schools. In 1937 we held a large Youths' Congress at Vejle-fjord. This year West Denmark is planning for a couple of smaller meetings and East Denmark has appointed a convention for the young people during the first two days of the Missionary Volunteer Week. Norway is contemplating a holiday gathering or camp, but the plan is not yet final.

HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

In this department all the 6,879 members are included. There is hardly one who through the year has not rendered service of one kind or another. Our figures in this department show what is reported, but they fall short of what is actually done. It is quite difficult to get members to report what they do.

Campaigns have gone well in 1937. Especially we have reason to rejoice over the Ingathering. When we consider the serious obstacles we faced in Denmark it is especially good. In the Union we raised Kr.101,007, or Kr.2,666 more than the year before. If the situation gets no worse we can look forward to the next Ingathering with confidence. In Iceland the law forbids sending money out of the country, and the people ask how their gifts can help the heathen in missionary lands in view of this. The fact is that Iceland receives money for its work from outside, so the campaign there makes it possible to send foreign money to missions instead.

The conference had in 1937 six ordained ministers, one licentiate, and four Bible-workers. Of these, three ministers and one licentiate are self-supporting; of the others one is chaplain of the Skodsborg Sanitarium. The remainder have been occupied with church work. Much labour has been ex-

pendent on the churches, and the relations between them and the conference are good. The improvement in tithe yield, of about Kr.3 per member per year, is witness of this. The Sabbath-school membership shares in the general improvement, showing an increase of about a hundred. Sabbath-school offerings have risen about Kr.1,000, and Week of Prayer gifts show a small rise of about Kr.100.

Our two church schools have together sixty children. Two brethren and two sisters do the teaching. The lady teachers, however, are employed only half-time in the school.

West Danish Conference

BY P. G. NELSEN

In many scriptures is the work of the church strikingly set forth; for example, in 1 Timothy 3:15, where Paul speaks of the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. This is what God expects of His people. Truth has been trodden to the earth for centuries, but it is now to be lifted aloft, so that the attention of all is called to it. God's people are to be the pillar of the truth. This holy task we must keep before our eyes. In everything we undertake, in every feature of our work, in every departmental campaign as well as in public evangelism, in the sale of literature carried by faithful colporteurs from door to door, we must never forget that we are to lift up the truth, the precious treasure entrusted to us. The West Danish Conference wishes in the fullest measure to keep rank with the other conferences in the West Nordic Union, and go on to fulfil this great commission.

In 1937 West Denmark increased its workers by employing five ordained ministers, four licentiates, and seven Bible-workers. In addition to these we have six church school teachers in our four church schools, in addition to some workers in the Vejlefjord High school, who receive credentials from the conference. Our membership at the beginning of the year was 1,513, but on account of

Our income shows an encouraging rise. The tithe went beyond last year some Kr.5,000. Expenses of workers were Kr.9,646 less. For various purposes we show an expenditure of Kr.23,289. We have covered this, and strengthened our reserves to the amount of Kr.4,000. Beyond this we show a gain on the year's operation of Kr.320.87.

The prospects for the coming year are unusually bright. We have three efforts in progress which, for Denmark, are largely attended, and we have in addition three efforts that have quite fair attendances. It is several years since we saw our efforts start so promisingly.

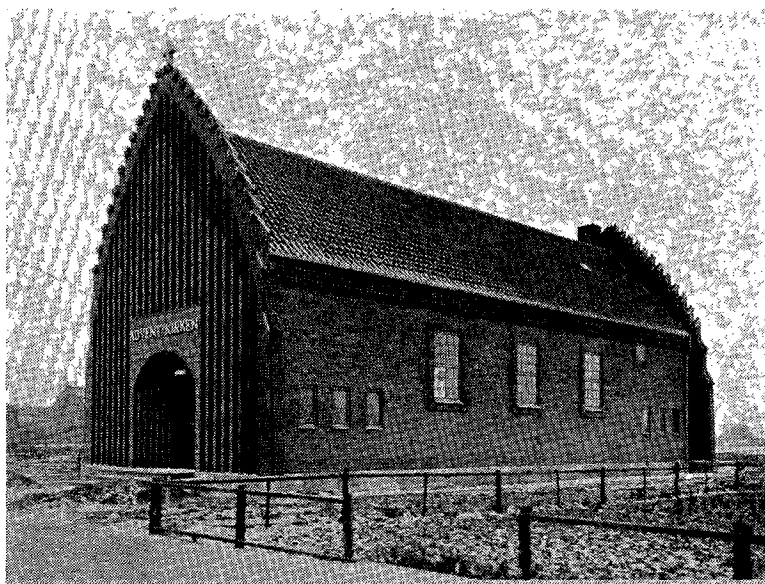
forty-one apostasies and a considerable number of removals we sustained a net loss of four.

We have recently taken special steps to bring more life and activity into our young people's work, and there are signs of good improvement. In the four church schools there are eighty of our children, and 400 members in the Young People's societies. We are planning to hold Sabbath-school conventions and organize Home Missionary Study Courses throughout the conference in 1938.

We were gladdened last year to

see three of our churches occupy their own places of worship. Two of these were provided largely by conference assistance; but the third, in Nyborg, was due to the initiative of the local brethren. Two of our members there own a residential property in one of the main streets of the town and have erected a building on space available in the garden, which the church has under its own control. This is a very nice and attractive meeting-place, with a special room for the children, where they can have their own Sabbath-school, and an apartment where one of our mission workers, who is at present labouring in Nyborg, is residing. We are expecting this month to dedicate the third of these our new church buildings in Vejle. It is perhaps the first real church building, in style of construction, that we have had in the north. It has cost considerable, but it is unusually comfortable and attractive. Altogether we have spent about Kr.64,000 in these two new church buildings, but we are hopeful that they may contribute toward our great objective to make our church in the West Danish Conference a pillar of the truth.

We are thankful for progress in our departmental work. There is a marked increase in the number of members who have reported, also an increase in Bible readings given and persons brought to



The new church building at Vejlefjord.

Sabbath-school. Nine churches last year organized themselves into groups for Home Missionary service and we added eight new Dorcas societies. There are six new Young People's societies. There is an increased interest in work for juniors, and we expect this to grow into a blessing to the churches.

We acknowledge that much

more might have been done in the past year, but it is our innermost wish and purpose to strive more earnestly in the coming year, trusting in God's assistance and blessing. We are thankful for what we have been able to accomplish, but we earnestly long to accomplish far more for the spread of the truth and to prepare a people for the soon coming of the Lord.

and a sister that help in the work. Where there is an effort colporteurs help with the meetings and find interested persons, and for this service we help them with lodging and fuel. In five efforts the interest is very good, in one it is not so good, but we are hoping to win many more souls than last year. Laymen's work is being carried on in several of the churches, and there is a prospect that souls will be gained by this means. One of the greatest needs is money to set more of our young people to work, for we have many who are educated and could be employed at once. In addition to these we have six young people at Newbold who ought to be helped to continue their studies.

The sanitarium problem is a burning issue in our conference, and in our country. The greatest hindrance is lack of means. We have gathered some and have a fund of a little over Kr.100,000, but we must have help from outside. Something must be done to reach the classes that we have done so little for, and who can best be reached through the health work. It is also needed because of the employment it would furnish for our young people. We labour perseveringly at this problem and pray for God's help; we trust that He who watches over His cause will lead us on to triumph, that a multitude of souls may be won for the truth through all branches of the work.

The South Norway Conference

BY T. S. VALEN

WE are grateful to God for the freedom we have to carry on our work. We sometimes encounter sharp opposition, but no legislation hinders either our public efforts or our gathering of means for missions. Individuals have been called before the police, but the law is on our side, so we have met no special difficulties. Our members have taken part in mission work, especially in the Harvest Ingathering, with greater zeal than ever.

At the close of 1936 we had 2,316 members and thirty-nine churches, forty-six Sabbath-schools and 1,940 members. In the year we established one new church. Our preachers won eighty-six members, the Home Missionary work added twenty-three, and on exchange we gained two, a total of 111. However, we lost forty-five by apostasy, another forty-two died, so our net gain is twenty-four, making a present membership of 2,340.

Our tithe income was Kr.145,854, an increase of Kr.10,645, or a gain per member of Kr.1.29 or 7.9 per cent. In Sabbath-school gifts we took Kr.30,896, an increase of Kr.4,296. On all mission offerings we received Kr.82,296, a rise of Kr.2,879, or 3.6 per cent. In Harvest Ingathering there came in Kr.39,282, or an increase of Kr.4,500.

In the course of the year we have had at work nine ordained ministers, two licentiates, seven Bible-workers, and two office workers.

Ten of the baptisms were at our school, where the attendance has varied from forty-five to fifty.

The fact that I am occupied with a public effort has loaded the department secretary with considerable church work, but there have been a number of lay efforts in progress, and the twenty-three souls gained are largely the result of these efforts. Young People's societies have risen from seventeen to twenty-two. A few Dorcas societies have been established. Our members have sold the book, *A Word in Season*, to earn money for a fund to provide employment for our young in rural districts, and Kr.550 has come in. New contributions are coming steadily.

In the present year we have six preachers in public work, a Bible teacher at the Mission School, one department secretary, four lady Bible-workers, two office workers. By co-operation with the publishing house we have two young men

The North Norway Conference

BY J. A. TILGREN

THE year 1937 was in many respects a blessed year for our conference. The growth in membership was not so great, but the net increase showed improvement on the previous year. At the beginning we were 925. There were thirty-eight baptisms, twelve received by vote, and twelve by letter, sixty-two in all. Four were lost by apostasy. The net increase was twenty-nine, so we are now 954 in twenty-seven churches.

Four of us are now holding efforts, and in every case the meetings are crowded. With the Lord's

help we shall reap a harvest of souls.

The year brought us Kr.38,520 tithe, a gain of Kr.6,823, or twenty-two per cent. Harvest Ingathering reached Kr.14,649, a gain of Kr.3,427, or thirty-one per cent. The total mission offering rose to Kr.27,159, a gain of Kr.4,949, or twenty-two per cent. "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

Our conference employs two ordained ministers, two licentiates, one Bible-worker, and a treasurer. Our great need is for more Bi-

workers and increased attention for our churches. We have many places where no work has been done.

At the close of 1937 we began to use our new church building in Trondheim. The treatment-

rooms, with office and living quarters, were in use by July. We are to dedicate the church building in March. Now we have meeting-places in Vardo, Hammerfest, Hadsel, Narvik, Trondheim, and Kristiansund.

The Oslo Publishing House

BY L. A. NILSEN

OUR book sales have, since 1928 to 1930, which marked the lowest point after the war, risen steadily. Last year's economic improvement in the country is reflected in the improvement in our sales. Our figures in 1936 went up to Kr.242,852, and in 1937 to Kr.277,136, a further rise of Kr.34,284. When we gathered for our colporteur institute in the beginning of 1937, the force was unanimous that they would do their utmost during 1937 to send the figures up by another Kr.50,000. When report No. 52 was issued, it showed that the goal was reached, and when we gathered with the colporteurs in the institute that convened as the new year began, the rejoicing was mutual. The total in reality falls a little short of the goal, because our year's report only shows a gain of Kr.41,492. The cause of the difference is that in the previous year we had a number of workers among the "occasional sellers." Their sales were about Kr.23,000 in 1936, but only about Kr.7,000 in 1937. Our force of full-time workers is for the moment fifty to fifty-five, but the staff of part-time workers has gone up to fifty to fifty-five. Of these, twenty to twenty-five are pupils from the mission school. Altogether there were 117 employed in selling books during the year.

We are especially glad for the large number of full-time workers,

and it is a further cause for rejoicing that our colporteurs show a growing interest in literature which contains the message in more direct form. For instance, *Great Controversy* went up from 382 to 962 copies. This year ten to eleven are working with this book as against three last year. It is not so much the number of books sold that causes the increase (31,717 against 30,534 last year) but the books sold are in a higher-priced class, and this has made the improvement.

Tracts are about the same as last year. The health paper shows a gain of Kr.3,000. Of this, 11,000 copies are sold every month. *Tidens Tale* is a trifle under its last year's record.

Seven students earned scholarships last year, of which five were for Newbold.

In our printing plant we have had a satisfactory year. We have nine workers and the co-operation is good. When we look at the work of the past year we are truly thankful to God for His help and for the statement of the Spirit of prophecy that the message-filled literature in these finishing days of the world's history shall be scattered as the leaves of autumn. May God always find us who are in the publishing house and the factory ranking alongside our brethren in the field as His true servants.

course for the two Danish conferences was held toward the close of the year, and was followed by a Peace Congress, at which seventy delegates were present, among them being a member of the Riksdag. The delegates expressed great pleasure over their meeting in such a place. We were able to give them information about our school which won general approval. As a result of this congress we got many summer guests, and we expect more next year. Our total summer patronage reached 152, of which a minority were our own people. This was a record. The great Youth's Congress was also an auspicious event, but next time we ought to have a better idea of the numbers we may expect.

The new school is so far the best we have ever had. Up to the present we have enrolled seventy-two students. All in the school greatly appreciate Brother Varmer's work as Bible teacher. There seems to be a little more money among the students than in earlier years. The graduating class has fourteen in it.

Our school garden improves every year, and now the trees are beginning to bear larger crops of fruit. After careful consideration our faculty has come to the conclusion that the school's first two classes should be regarded as an Intermediate Department, which means that we can receive help for such classes from the State, and the students will also be able to ask for assistance. The official who has visited the school reports a favourable impression. This does not mean that we shall in any way alter the school programme. We shall merely strengthen some of the work which is now being done, for example, the gymnastic training for the young men.

The Bible is the chief subject in the education of our school. All the teachers take turns in conducting worship. Prayer groups are organized under suitable leaders. The M.V. meetings are held regularly with programmes both literary and religious in character. In this way the young people get helpful training in self-expression. There is every year a course in young people's work which quali-

The Vejlefjord School

BY H. M. JOHNSON

THE year 1937 was a good one for our Danish school. Twenty-three young people were baptized, of whom twenty-one were pupils. Among these were some we had hardly hoped to win during their first year. It was an occasion of

rejoicing to see so many young people join themselves to the church.

The average of marks was the highest we have ever achieved. The students appreciate what is being done for them. A colporteur

fies the students to render help to the M.V. societies in the churches. Last year we organized a Red Cross class, and at the close presented diplomas to twenty-six members of the two circles formed.

The education given in general subjects leads up to the State certificate for both men and women. The young ladies also get instruction in domestic science and some business subjects. The young men are given practical instruction in gardening and power-house work, also in modern fruit culture and all varieties of agricultural work, including the care of farm stock, poultry, and bees.

Perhaps the most important thing of all is that the young people who come to the school are daily surrounded by Christian influences far from many of the temptations of city life. Longer than anything else, the student remembers with gratitude the personal interest shown in him by Christian teachers.



Onsrud Mission School

BY G. GUDMUNDSEN

It is with great thankfulness to the Lord that we look back on the past year's work. A good spirit of zeal and co-operation has prevailed. It was also very encouraging to baptize and receive into church fellowship ten young persons who had given their hearts to God.

The present school year began with an enrolment of forty-five, of which twenty-seven were churchmembers and eighteen unconverted. During the Week of Prayer sixteen of these unconverted souls took their stand for the truth and the rest of the student body consecrated themselves to the Lord. This group meets now once a week for prayer and earnest Bible study, preparing for baptism at the close of the school year, when we hope two or three who have become interested as the result of the Bible teacher's efforts will join them. In this public effort some of the students also take part.

One of our greatest concerns is how we can provide work enough

to enable more of our young people to attend our school. We have a large army of young people in Norway who cannot take advantage of the blessings of a Christian education because of the ever-present problem of finances. For a long time we have talked about industries in our school, and some progress has been made, but it is far from sufficient. The training

of the hand is of great value for the training of the mind and character. The *Testimonies* tell us that we are to have a threefold programme of education—the spiritual, the industrial, and the intellectual. No education is complete without all three.

We look to the future with hope and confidence knowing that we do not carry the load alone.

Progress in Liberia

BY K. F. NOLTZE

THE early aims of Liberia were full of Christian heroism, and had the children of the pioneers followed their forefathers, great good would have come to themselves and to the many heathen tribes in Liberia's forests. Ashmun, one of her best, spoke about 100 years ago to his countrymen: "You are the messengers of Providence, charged with the introduction of pure Christianity into a pagan continent."

The Advent message was introduced into this republic by some of our German missionaries who landed at Grand Bassa early in 1927, and founded Palmberg station. About four years later the first natives of the Bassa tribe were baptized. The work among the Kpelle in the far hinterland was opened in 1931 and centred at our second station, Liiwa, about 260 km. off the coast. Early in 1935 we organized there our first Kpelle church. Because of the extremely difficult transportation through dense but thinly-populated forests and over many rivers and swamps, especially during the seven months of rains, we began to plan for a central station at the present terminus of the motor-road leading from the capital, Monrovia, into the country. During 1936 I secured a wonderful spot about 105 km. off the coast at a strategic point, named Konola, and here we have since begun to build and to preach, have also opened a school, and organized some time ago the Konola church. We were just in time, for it would this year already be impossible to get good land in this region. Konola seems likely to grow to a large

settlement of Liberians and aborigines.

At present we have an African membership of sixty-five, only a few, yet the fruits of hard toil by Africans as well as Europeans, plucked out of raw heathenism under fierce attacks of Satan's agencies, poison, fire, whipping, imprisonment, false accusations, and degrading influences to hinder the forward march of these happy souls.

On my last trip, over a distance of about 500 km. bush travel, on which I could visit nearly all of our churchmembers, I received, beside many others, six definite petitions made by chiefs and elders to send good teachers and evangelists. In some instances the buildings are ready or partly under construction. Not to disappoint one chief too much, I asked one illiterate churchmember to stay temporarily in the ready-made school building until we can send a teacher for the children. He holds morning and evening prayers and conducts a Sabbath-school.

Five of our nine African workers are still scholars with an education up to only four to six years of schooling, and this in a language which is not their own. These are entrusted with the whole evangelistic work within a territory of 500 km., which has to be covered on foot, with four schools of about 100 pupils, and with a heavy agricultural programme; for the natives are not producing much more than they need for their own support, and regularly every year there is a starvation period of three months; thus we have to

make our work independent as much as possible.

At present we are working in five languages. Our workers are overburdened, and our means are insufficient even to meet present

needs. The Lord is giving us evidences that Liberia is preparing for His glorious advent. Let our devoted people in the homelands know that it lies greatly in their hands whereto Liberia shall march.

In the Backwoods of Liberia

BY T. KETOLA

THE inhabitants, some 2,000,000; are not only the descendants of the negro slaves who came from America, but many tribes and languages. All except those who came from America are heathen, worshipping trees, rocks, spirits, and water. Bush doctors have great power in the minds of the people. It is hard to get people into our meetings in many places, and parents do not allow their children to attend school. Bush doctors and the secret societies hate missionaries, being afraid of losing their power. Last year they burnt the house on the Liiwa station where we are living now.

Liiwa is on a high hill about 150 miles from the coast and the capital. We have thirty scholars growing food and learning the usual subjects. We have been building some new houses, too, among them a schoolhouse. Scholars are able to pay for their fees and their

board by the work of their hands.

We have two native workers, of whom one is teaching in the school and the other one is my interpreter. Beside building, farming, and school work, we have been holding meetings, sometimes twice a week, in eight different towns located one to three hours' walk from the mission station on bad roads. I held a meeting in one town telling the people that their charms are useless; if they want God's help they must leave their charm worship. After a few days I returned and the town-master had destroyed his charms already. People in other towns have done the same. Some town-masters have asked for teachers. Ten people are preparing for baptism during July. Sick people are coming every day. Many have been ill for years, going from one bush doctor to another, getting worse as a result of their dirty treatments.

The Gospel's Transforming Power in Sierra Leone

BY M. M. KAMANDA

THERE is a village near Bo, in Sierra Leone, which is composed of about thirty houses, and a population of about two hundred. Once I was holding meetings in this village, when I met a juju-man whom the chief of the village had called to cast out a certain juju which was killing children; making older people sick, withering hands; and causing poverty. Everybody in the village was glad to see this juju-man. Fowls and goats were slaughtered, and the night was spent in dancing and feasting.

Early in the morning arrange-

ments were made to root up the juju. A portion of bush was cleared, and a temporary shed was built. The juju-man and some big men in the village went in, and I followed them. A small fan with a big charm fastened to it was given to a certain young man, who, holding it with outstretched hands, started trembling. The tomtom drums and the singing women were called to act their parts. The magic fan with the big charm attached to it rushed the man along the tracks of the juju, taking him into the river and forest, and into different rooms of the houses.

At last the man went into a rice hut. After a very hard knocking on the ground at the centre of the hut, the juju-man said: "Stop! the juju is here." He marked the spot, and sprinkled some medicine water on it. I was called to examine the ground to know if it had been dug previously, which I did, but could not see anything of the kind. Some strong, brave men were called to dig, and after digging about a foot, the medicine man cried out: "Stop!" He took the hoe himself and digging, and sprinkling his medicine water, he took out a big bundle which was well wrapped in an old, black rag. He hastily placed the bundle in a bucket of medicine water and placed a heavy stone on it.

Everybody was glad, and there was a noise in the whole village. After a few hours of this noise, a crier went to invite everybody to come and see the contents of this strange bundle. It was opened in the presence of a large audience, and the following articles were found in it: some beads, an old wooden pipe, a sharp knife, a pair of scissors, some old rags, an old cap, some soap, and an empty pomade jar which contained two red beads, which were the jujus. There was an owner found for every article except the jujus. All these things had been collected by the juju that he might damage the owners. Women burst into tears when they saw the rags of their deceased children. Everybody was asked to examine these jujus, but nothing happened. They were burned the same day. The next day the fetish man made a big banquet, which everyone was compelled to partake of. It is supposed that the owner of the jujus, when he or she partakes of this food, will surely die.

Who would have thought that the people who believed in juju charms would turn to the great Jehovah? Some have now boldly confessed to me that juju, charms, idols, the worshipping of stones, streams, or trees, will not save them, but only God. To-day in that very village we have sixty-one Sabbath-school members. Does not this show that there is a transforming power in the Gospel?

Deliverance from Lightning

BY JAMES J. HAMILTON

"THE angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." *Psa. 34:7.*

On March 31, 1937, I went round the town of Ilesha visiting and distributing handbills for a series of lectures I was giving. Then I returned home and rested. Just about five o'clock in the afternoon the atmosphere changed, and there was sign of impending rain. We were glad for this, as we were in the middle of the dry season, and nearly all the streams were dried up, so that drinking water was scarce.

After we had prepared our kettles and pails to receive water, we went in to await the downpour. Suddenly we heard a heavy pattering on the roof, so went and stood by the doorway to see how the water was falling into the vessels we had placed outside. My wife was anxious to get a good supply of water before the cessation of the rain, so she took a bucket and held it to the spout where the water was flowing from the roof. She had taken in one bucketful and was receiving the second when in an instant we were struck by lightning. My wife collapsed on her face, unconscious, outside in the pouring rain, and I fell inside, hitting my occiput on the concrete floor, shouting, "Lord, have mercy! Father in heaven!" All that I can recollect was that I stood up for a few seconds and then fell.

The Yoruba people worship thunder, and if anyone is struck, their desire is that the unfortunate one should die. So no one would venture near to help us. My daughters were of tender age, the elder girl twelve and the younger one ten. In their predicament they went round the neighbourhood soliciting assistance, but none would come. Seeing her father and mother helplessly prostrated on the ground, and no one to help, my elder girl was trying to bring me to a sitting posture, when a young man with whom I was slightly acquainted, came in and helped me to my feet. I could

hardly walk. My legs were as if weights were tied on them. But, seeing my wife's condition, I managed to get to her. All this time she was unconscious. I called her over half a dozen times before I could get a word from her. Her first words were: "What is the matter with me?" I said: "Nothing." With tears I begged some of our neighbours to assist me to remove her from the rain, but they would not, lest a similar fate



Evangelist J. J. Hamilton

should overtake them. With the assistance of the young man I have mentioned we lifted my wife in, changed the wet clothes, and dressed the deep wound she received on her face. Her skin was burnt by the lightning, the scars of which she still bears. People collected in the front of our house waiting to hear that we were dead. They waited and when there was no wailing they had to go back disappointed to their different homes.

When every anxiety was over my children told me that the thunderbolt hit the wall of the house. When I got into our bedroom I found a hole about one foot and a half in diameter over our bed-head. We cleared away the mud, and, after a season of prayer with the believers here, we went to sleep in the very room with the

opening over our head, trusting in God who had so miraculously delivered us from sudden destruction.

This happened on a Wednesday. On Sabbath, instead of the people hearing wailings and weepings, they heard:

"Now, in a song of grateful praise, To my dear Lord my voice I'll raise: With all His saints I'll join to tell, My Jesus has done all things well!"

And on Sunday night I held my usual lecture, with my wife present.

The various contributions that appear in this issue from the West Nordic Union are perhaps of a different character from what we usually give when reports are specially written for the *SURVEY*. These were all taken, much abbreviated, from the written reports presented at the Annual Committee Meeting.

Perhaps the reports speak rather of the problems to be faced than of the brighter side. It was my privilege to sit with the West Nordic Committee while the problems were being discussed. I was impressed with the magnitude of the tasks that confronted the brethren, but I was also impressed with the courage and spirit of loyal co-operation that enabled them to enter upon a new year's work in faith and hope.

Brother E. R. Colson came to take part in the committee, but unfortunately was not able to attend it, owing to a sudden illness which took the form of an unusually high fever. He was confined to bed throughout the meeting, and when it closed the doctor's diagnosis was that he would not be able to get up for another week. We will give the latest news concerning his health before the paper goes to press. W.T.B.

P.S.—Brother Colson is making slow progress.

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